

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,037,268 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 09/914682
DATED : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Sleva et al.

Page 1 of 2

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 6.

Line 8, after "and the third electrical trace of the first pliable" please insert -- material layer provides an electrical ground operably associated with the first and second conductive outer layers of the sensor. In a preferred embodiment, the acoustic sensor transmission line is configured with a series of undulations along its length.

Yet another aspect of the present invention is an acoustic sensor array, comprising a plurality of sensor elements having first and second outer surfaces. The first outer surface is configured to be attached to a subject. The sensor array also includes a carrier member releasably attached to the second outer surface of each of the plurality of sensor elements to hold the plurality of sensors in alignment. In operation, the carrier member is disengaged from the sensor elements after the sensor elements are attached to the subject. In one embodiment, the sensor elements are a set of discrete (structurally separate) sensor elements and the carrier member maintains positional alignment of the sensor elements for easier positioning onto a subject. Advantageously, the carrier member can also be used for other sensor configurations, and is particularly useful for resilient or compact flexural element configurations (such as the strip sensor embodiment described herein).

An additional aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of minimizing the mechanical interference between one or more or adjacent sensors and the end of the transmission line. For example, the method can minimize interference between adjacent sensors and system or environment mechanical forces which potentially can be input to the sensor by mechanically isolating flexure responsive acoustic sensor elements in arrays having a plurality of sensor elements. The method comprises the step of forming a series of undulations in a electrical transmission path to provide mechanical damping therealong. Preferably, the acoustic sensor array includes a plurality of sensor elements and a separate electrical transmission path for each of said sensor elements and the method further comprises the step of forming the sensor array such that the plurality of sensor elements and associated sensor electrical transmission paths are physically separate units.

Another aspect of the present invention is a method of forming an acoustic --

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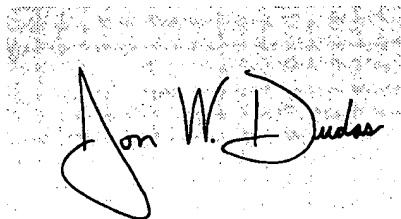
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 30.

Line 67 should read -- second ends and defining a length therebetween, a --

Signed and Sealed this

Tenth Day of October, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon W. Dudas", is written over a rectangular area with a light gray, textured background.

JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office